

I support media diversity...Don't allow another Clear Channel to happen!!! As a former employee of Clear Channel Communications, I can tell you firsthand what deregulation has done to the radio industry. I was an evening air personality for almost six years on a highly successful rock station in Youngstown, Oh. My ratings were always very high and I made a considerable profit for the station. After Clear Channel bought half the stations in the Youngstown/Warren market, including mine, the management slashed the work force by at least 50%. I was informed I no longer had a job because I was told I made "too much money" for my time slot at 6,000 per yr. That is comical when the CEO of Clear Channel, Lowry "I love money more than anything!!" Mays was reported receiving a 0 MILLION "Bonus" during the holidays. Clear Channel cares nothing about its employees, listeners or communities. This "company" has singlehandedly ruined the radio industry...mainly due to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 that laxed ownership regulations of radio stations. Mr. Mays, himself, has stated the same thing! Clear Channel CEO Lowry Mays said it best: "We're not in the business of providing news and information. We're not in the business of providing well-researched music. We're simply in the business of selling our customers products." This is the reality of radio consolidation, a reality the FCC needs to fully comprehend before allowing the radio model to be replicated throughout other media. How much more evidence does anyone need???

I feel very strongly if other media ownership regulations are laxed the same thing will happen. The airwaves are owned by the public, not the big conglomerates. People, such as myself, are simply fed up with the FCC serving the few wealthy owners and lobbyists instead of the American people like they should. This all out greed and corruption stinks to high hell. FCC Chairman Michael Powell, who claims the "free market is my religion", has made is extremely clear the public opinion means absolutely nothing. He should resign IMMEDIATELY due to incompetence and self serving interests. I've never seen such an outright abuse of a public office.

America is great because of the awesome diversity in this country. By allowing consolidation to happen, fewer and fewer voices and opinions will be heard. This is very dangerous and has the possibility of undermining the whole concept of free speech. The American people are waking up and not going to allow a handful of obnoxiously wealthy people control what they hear, see and read. If I want to live in a nation where free speech is non existant, I would move to Cuba or China.

I appreciate the chance to air my views...hopefully they will not fall on deaf ears as most views have with Mr. Powell. "We the people"...remember?

I, as a taxpayer and your boss, urge the commission to delay the vote scheduled for June 2, 2003. DO NOT ALLOW MORE DEREGULATION IN THE MEDIA!!!!!!

Thank you and God Bless America!!